

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

/066 W

----- 122524

R 091210Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3315

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4441

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJECT: LIMITATIONS ON PAK-AFGHAN PROPAGANDA: STILL HOLDING

REF: KABUL 3424 AND 4048; ISLAMABAD 5494

1. ON JULY 10 ONE MONTH WILL HAVE PASSED SINCE AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN IMPOSED LIMITS ON AD HOMINEM PROPAGANDA EMANATING FROM THE TWO COUNTRIES. THOUGH IT APPEARS AFGHANS ARE USING TO FULLEST THEIR RESERVED RIGHT TO STATE FRANK VIEWS ON PUSHTUNISTAN, AND THOUGH PAK EMBASSY HERE ADMITTED DIFFICULTY IN GETTING ADHERENCE OF ALL PAK NATIONAL STATIONS, BAN IS HOLDING.

2. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE NOT SKIRTED CLOSE TO EDGE OF AGREEMENT. IN RECENT WEEKS WE NOTED PAK RADIO LEANING ESPECIALLY HARD ON AFGHAN REGIME'S ALLEGED "PARCHAMIST" (FAR LEFT AFGHAN POLITICAL FACTION) LEANINGS (JUNE 21: "PARCHAMISTS DRINK THE BLOOD OF POOR AFGHANS." JULY 5: "GOD HELP OUR AFGHAN BROTHERS GET FREEDOM FROM THE HANDS OF PARCHAMISTS AND FROM THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT.") DAOUD IS ACCUSED (JUNE 30) OF RULING THE COUNTRY THROUGH ETHNIC DIVISIONS FOMENTED, AGAIN, BY PARCHAMISTS.

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3. THOUGH AFGHAN RADIO APPEARS TO PRESENT FEWER DIRECT THRUSTS, PAK EMBOFF WHO HAS FOLLOWED RADIO EXCHANGES CLOSELY TOLD EMBOFF ON JULY 3 THAT AFGHANS HAVE PRESSED PAINFULLY HARD ON PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE. WE NOTE ALSO THAT AFGHAN RADIO ON JUNE 21 IN COMMENTING ON CURRENT TRIAL OF WALI KHAN AND NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY STATED THAT WALI HAD DECIDED NOT TO DEFEND HIMSELF IN COURT SINCE COURT RESULT WOULD BE "WHAT BHUTTO WANTED." IN OTHER BROADCASTS BHUTTO IS ACCUSED OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR FLIGHT OF BALUCHIS INTO AFGHANISTAN.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE THIS STRAINING OF CONTENT OF PROPAGANDA AGREEMENT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE AFGHANS ARE SERIOUS ABOUT MAINTAINING IT. STRUKES US THAT MAIN DANGER WILL BE BROADCASTERS WHO MAY STRAIN TO POINT OF GETTING AHEAD OF THEIR OWN BOSSES, AND FOR THIS REASON WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW BROADCASTS WITH INTEREST. END COMMENT. ELIOT

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